

LEGAL NOTICE  
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
CHILD CARE PROVIDER GRANTS

The Department of Public Health and Human Services, Early Childhood Services Bureau (DPHHS/ECSB) will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Best Beginnings Child Care Provider Grants on Monday, May 14, 2007. Grant funds are to be used to improve the quality of child care services, to expand child care service to Montana families and communities with unmet needs and expand child care options to low income families.

Montana licensed or registered child care providers who are participating in the Early Care and Education Practitioner Registry who have achieved Level III or higher on the career path are eligible to apply. Applicants must demonstrate a strong link to professionalism in the field of Early Childhood, a commitment to providing high quality care in safe and healthy environments, and retention of highly skilled and knowledgeable staff.

All facilities applying for the Best Beginnings Provider Grant must be serving a minimum of 15% of their license capacity slots with children who participate in the Best Beginnings Scholarship program. During the grant period the facility must dedicate a minimum of 20% of their child care slots for children who qualify for services under the State of Montana's Best Beginnings Scholarship program. Goals must include a plan for national accreditation through either the national Association of Education for Young children (NAEYC), or the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), or the National After School Association (NAA).

It is anticipated that approximately \$108,000 dollars is available for the Best Beginnings Child Care Provider Grants. The department anticipates funding six to eight, one-year projects renewable for second and third year funding depending upon facilities meeting annual performance criteria. Contract awards will be limited to a maximum of: Centers - \$15,000 – 1<sup>st</sup> year, \$12,500 – 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 10,000 – 3<sup>rd</sup> year; Group Child Care Homes - \$10,000, 1<sup>st</sup> year, \$8,500, - 2<sup>nd</sup> year, \$7,000 – 3<sup>rd</sup> year; Family Care Homes - \$5,000 – 1<sup>st</sup> year, \$4,200 – 2<sup>nd</sup> year, \$3,500 – 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

**TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR SECOND YEAR FUNDING:**

Providers must maintain service to children who receive "Best Beginnings" child care scholarship assistance. At least 20% of their slots must be serving this population. 50% of the Primary Caregiving staff at a Group child home or Center must be recognized on the Montana Early Childhood Practitioner Registry and have attained a level III or higher status on the Career Path by the end of the first year (or must be actively enrolled in Early Childhood college coursework or CDA coursework).

**TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIRD YEAR FUNDING**

The provider must continue to meet the above standards and must achieve accreditation by NAFCC or NAEYC by the end of the second year.

This project is funded as part of the State of Montana's "Best Beginnings" quality Child care initiatives and contingent upon Federal funding through the Child Care Development Fund.

A more complete description of the services sought for this project is provided in the RFP, Section 3, Scope of Project. Proposals submitted in response to this solicitation must comply with the instructions and procedures contained in the RFP

The contract term is for a period of 1 year beginning October 1, 2007 and ending September 30, 2008.

**The complete Request For Proposal (RFP), instructions, and forms are located on the Dept of Administration website at:**

**<http://gsd.mt.gov/osbs/Results.asp?AgencyID=PHHS2> or at ECSB's website at: [www.childcare.mt.gov](http://www.childcare.mt.gov) and will become available Monday, May 14, 2007. Copies of the RFP's will also become available Monday, May 14, 2007 from your local Child Care Resource and Referral office, or from the Early Childhood Services Bureau, PO Box 202925, Helena, MT 59620-2925, or call (866) 239-0458.**

Request For Proposals must be received in the ECSB office, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 29, 2007. Applications should be mailed to DPHHS/ECSB, Procurement Officer: Renne't Sarbu, PO Box 202925, Helena, MT 59620-2952. For more information please contact Renne't Sarbu at 1-406-444-5925 or [resarbu@mt.gov](mailto:resarbu@mt.gov).